

NAEP 2005 Reading Results

June 2006

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Basic Facts: National

- Tests administered January—April 2005
- Fifty-two jurisdictions participated in NAEP in 2005: the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Education Activity Schools.
- More than 165,000 students at grade 4, 159,000 students at grade 8, and 12,000 students at grade 12 were tested nationwide



Basic Facts: Vermont

- More than 4,000 Vermont students, in grades 4 and 8, participated in the NAEP Reading exam
- Vermont has taken part in NAEP Reading assessments in grades 4 and 8 since 2002

Since 1964, NAEP, known as the Nation's Report Card, has been the only ongoing nationally representative indicator of what American students know and are able to do in key subject areas.

National Results

On a 0 to 500 point scale, fourth-graders' average score was 1 point higher and eighth-graders' average score was 1 point lower in 2005 than in 2003. Average scores in 2005 were 2 points higher than in the first assessment year, 1992, at both grades 4 and 8. Examining the short-term changes between 2003 and 2005, when all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Department of Defense (DoD) schools were assessed, showed mixed results for grades 4 and 8. At grade 4, average scores increased in 7 states and in the DoD schools and decreased in 2 states. The percentage of students performing at or above Basic increased in 3 states and in the DoD schools and decreased in 2 states. At grade 8, no state had a higher average score in 2005 than in 2003, and 7 states had lower scores. The percentage of students performing at or above Basic increased in 1 state and decreased in 6 states. At grade 8, the first state assessment was given in 1998 in 38 states and jurisdictions. Three states had higher average scores in 2005 compared to 1998, and 8 states had lower average scores. The percentage of students performing at or above Basic increased in 3 states and in the DoD schools and decreased in 11 states.

Subgroup Results

Grade 4

The average scores for White, Black, Hispanic, and Asian/Pacific Islander students increased between 1992 and 2005. Looking at the short-term trend, Black and Hispanic students each scored higher on average in 2005 than in 2003. The White-Black and White-Hispanic score gaps narrowed during this same time. Students who were eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch and those who were not eligible had higher average scores in 2005 than in 1998. In the short term, students who were eligible showed a 2-point increase from 2003 to 2005. In 2005, female students scored higher on average than male students. Male students' average score increased by 3 points from 1992 to 2005.

Subgroup Results

Grade 8

White, Black, and Hispanic students scored higher, on average, in 2005 than in 1992. The average score for students who were not eligible for free or reduced-price lunch decreased by 1 point between 2003 and 2005. The longer trend between 1998 and 2005 showed no statistically significant changes regardless of free-lunch eligibility. Both male and female students' average scores showed decreases between 2003 and 2005. In the longer term, the average score for male students was 3 points higher in 2005 than in 1992.

To read an online Q&A about the national NAEP results, visit <http://nces.ed.gov/whatsnew/statchat/transcripts/ts10192005.asp>.

More information

NAEP Web Site:
<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/>

Vermont Department of Education Web Site:
<http://www.state.vt.us/educ/>

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Vermont Results

Grade 4

Comparison with national results-Vermont's average scale score in 2005 was *statistically significantly higher* than the national average scale score of students in public schools across the country (227 vs. 217). Vermont...

- outperformed 41 of the 52 states/jurisdictions that participated in the assessment
- performed at the same level as 9 states/jurisdictions
- performed lower than 1 state/jurisdiction

Comparison with state performance in past years-Vermont's average scale score in 2005 was not statistically different than the state's average scale score in 2003 or 2002. The percentage of Vermont students who scored at or above Proficient in 2005 (39%) was not statistically significantly different from that in 2002 or 2003.

Subgroup results

- The average scale score of male students was *statistically significantly lower* than female students (7 point differential).
- The average scale score of students eligible for free/reduced price lunch (an indicator of poverty) was *statistically significantly lower* than that of students not eligible for the program (23 point differential).

Grade 8

Comparison with national results-Vermont's average scale score in 2005 was *statistically significantly higher* than the national average scale score of students in public schools across the country (269 vs. 260). Vermont...

- outperformed 34 of the 52 states/jurisdictions that participated in the assessment
- performed at the same level as 16 states/jurisdictions
- performed lower than 1 state/jurisdiction

Comparison with state performance in past years-Vermont's average scale score in 2005 was *statistically significantly lower* than in 2002. The percentage of Vermont students who scored at or above Proficient in 2005 (37%) was not statistically significantly different from that in 2002 or 2003.

Subgroup results

- The average scale score of male students was *statistically significantly lower* than female students (13 point differential).
- The average scale score of students eligible for free/reduced price lunch (an indicator of poverty) was *statistically significantly lower* than that of students not eligible for the program (19 point differential).

NAEP in 2007

NAEP will be testing in three subject areas in Vermont next year: Reading (Grade 4 and 8), Mathematics (Grades 4 and 8) and Writing (Grade 8). The testing window runs from January 22nd through March 2nd. Principals of schools selected for participation were notified of their specific assessment date(s) in early June. Students will spend about 90 minutes participating, including answering questions in one subject area and completing background questionnaires. Schools will receive more information about the assessments in the coming months. Please contact the Vermont NAEP Coordinator, Susan Hayes, with any questions (802) 828-5892 or susanhayes@education.state.vt.us.